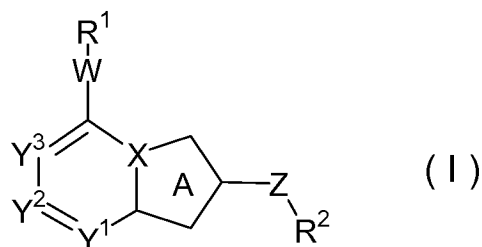
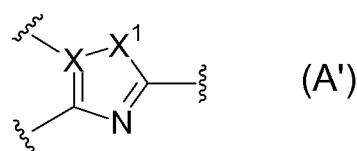


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

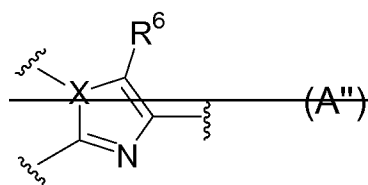
1. (Currently Amended) A compound represented by the formula (I):



wherein, ring A is a 5-membered ring represented by the formula (A'):



wherein X is a carbon and X¹ is ~~an oxygen, a sulfur or -NR⁵ - (wherein R⁵ is a C₁₋₄ alkyl hydrogen, an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl or an acyl), or formula (A'')~~



~~wherein X is a nitrogen and R⁶ is a hydrogen, an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl or an acyl;~~
R¹ is (1) an amino substituted by two substituents selected from an optionally substituted ~~hydrocarbyl group~~ C₁₋₄ alkyl, an optionally substituted phenyl and an optionally substituted ~~heterocyclic group~~ pyridyl, or (2) an optionally substituted cyclic amino, provided that the amino nitrogen of said cyclic amino has no carbonyl adjacent to the nitrogen;
R² is an optionally substituted phenylalkyl, ~~an optionally substituted cycloalkyl, an optionally substituted cycloalkenyl, an optionally substituted aryl or an optionally substituted pyridyl~~ heterocyclic;
Y¹, Y² and Y³ are each ~~an optionally substituted methyne optionally substituted by a halogen or a nitrogen, provided that one or less of Y¹, Y² and Y³ is nitrogen;~~
W is a bond, ~~-(CH₂)_n- or -(CH₂)_m-CO- (wherein n is an integer of 1 to 4 and m is an integer of 0 to 4); and Z is -NH- a bond, -CO-, an oxygen, a sulfur, -SO-, -SO₂-, -NR⁴-, -NR⁴-alk-, -CONR⁴- or -NR⁴CO- (wherein alk is an optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkylene and R⁴ is a hydrogen, an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl or an acyl);~~

~~provided that (i) the compound wherein ring A is the 5-membered ring of the formula A' (wherein X is a carbon and X⁺ is a sulfur), W is a bond, Z is ~~NHCO~~ or ~~CONH~~, and Y⁺ is CR^{3a} (wherein R^{3a} is a hydrogen, a halogen, or an alkoxy) and~~
(ii) the compound wherein ring A is the 5-membered ring of the formula A' (wherein X is a carbon and X⁺ is an oxygen, a sulfur, or ~~NH~~), R⁺ is an optionally substituted 1-piperazinyl, W is a bond, Z is a bond and R² is an optionally substituted aryl, are excluded;
or a salt thereof.

2. (Cancelled)

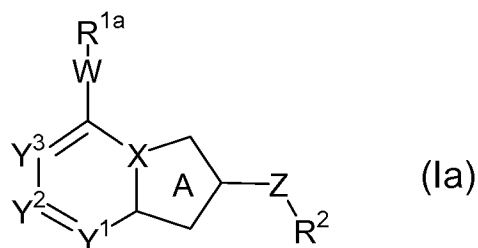
3. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 1 wherein R¹ is an amino substituted by two ~~optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkylalkyls~~ groups.

4. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 1 wherein R¹ is an amino substituted by an optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkyl and an optionally substituted phenyl or an optionally substituted heterocyclicpyridyl.

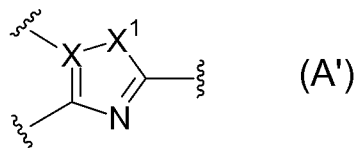
5. (Withdrawn) The compound according to claim 1 wherein R¹ is a 5- or 6-membered cyclic amino which may be substituted with one or more substituents.

6-12. (Cancelled)

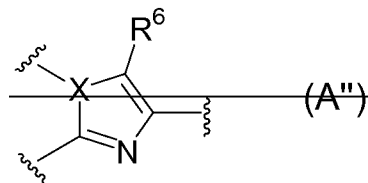
13. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A method for treating ~~or preventing~~ a disease wherein a CRF receptor is implicated, which comprises administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a compound represented by the formula (Ia):



wherein ring A is a 5-membered ring represented by the formula (A'):



wherein X is a carbon and X¹ is ~~an oxygen, a sulfur or -NR⁵ - (wherein R⁵ is C₁₋₄ alkyl a~~
hydrogen, an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl or an acyl), or formula (A'':



wherein X is a nitrogen and R⁶ is a hydrogen, an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl or an acyl;

R^{1a} is (1) an amino substituted by two substituents selected from an optionally substituted C₁₋₄
alkyl, an optionally substituted phenyl hydrocarbyl group and an optionally substituted
pyridylheterocyclic group, or (2) an optionally substituted cyclic amino;

R² is an optionally substituted phenylalkyl, an optionally substituted cycloalkyl, an optionally
substituted cycloalkenyl, an optionally substituted aryl or an optionally substituted
pyridylheterocyclic;

Y¹, Y² and Y³ are each ~~a an optionally substituted methyne optionally substituted by a halogen or~~
a nitrogen, provided that one or less of Y¹, Y² and Y³ is nitrogen;

W is a bond, ~~(CH₂)_n or (CH₂)_m - CO~~, wherein n is an integer of 1 to 4 and m is an integer of 0
to 4; and

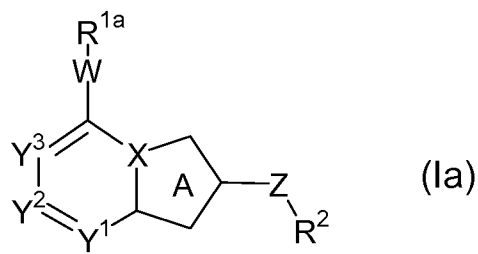
Z is a ~~-NH bond, CO~~, an oxygen, a sulfur, ~~SO, SO₂, NR⁴, NR⁴ alk, CONR⁴ or NR⁴ CO~~
(wherein alk is an optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkylene and R⁴ is a hydrogen, an optionally
substituted hydrocarbyl or an acyl);

provided that the compound wherein ring A is the 5-membered ring of the formula A' (wherein
X is a carbon and X¹ is a sulfur), W is a bond, Z is ~~NHCO or CONH~~, and Y¹ is CR^{3a} (wherein
R^{3a} is a halogen, or an alkoxy) is excluded;

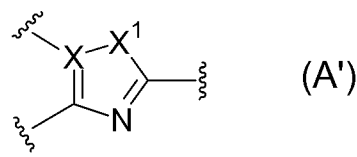
or a salt thereof.

14. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The method according to claim 13 wherein the
disease being treated ~~or prevented~~ is selected from affective disorder, depression and anxiety.

15. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) ~~Use of~~ A method for manufacturing a medicament for treating a disease wherein a CRF receptor is implicated, comprising combining a compound represented by the compound formula (Ia):



wherein ring A is a 5-membered ring represented by the formula (A'):



wherein X is a carbon and X¹ is -NR⁵- (wherein R⁵ is a C₁₋₄ alkyl);

R^{1a} is (1) an amino substituted by two substituents selected from an optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkyl, an optionally substituted phenyl and an optionally substituted pyridyl, or (2) an optionally substituted cyclic amino;

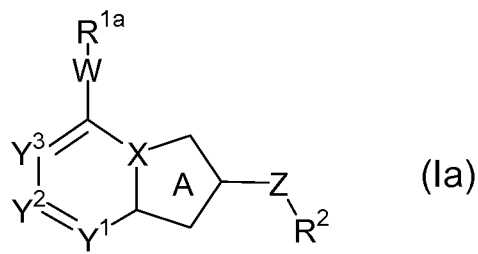
R² is an optionally substituted phenyl or an optionally substituted pyridyl;

Y¹, Y² and Y³ are each a methyne optionally substituted by a halogen;

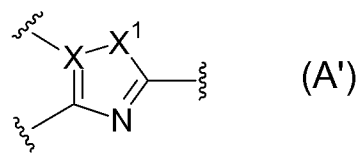
W is a bond; and

Z is -NH-; according to claim 13, or a salt thereof, with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier for manufacturing a medicament for preventing or treating a disease wherein a CRF receptor is implicated.

16. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) ~~Use of~~ A method for manufacturing a medicament for treating affective disorder, depression or anxiety, comprising combining a compound represented by the compound formula (Ia):



wherein ring A is a 5-membered ring represented by the formula (A'):



wherein X is a carbon and X¹ is -NR⁵- (wherein R⁵ is a C₁₋₄ alkyl);

R^{1a} is (1) an amino substituted by two substituents selected from an optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkyl, an optionally substituted phenyl and an optionally substituted pyridyl, or (2) an optionally substituted cyclic amino;

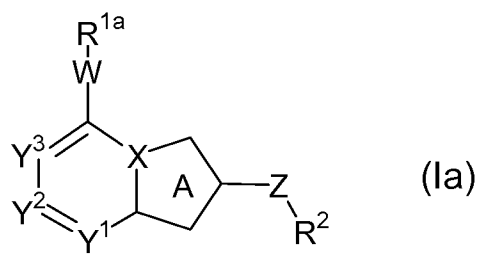
R² is an optionally substituted phenyl or an optionally substituted pyridyl;

Y¹, Y² and Y³ are each a methyne optionally substituted by a halogen;

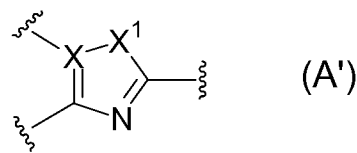
W is a bond; and

Z is -NH-; ~~according to claim 13, or a salt thereof, with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier for manufacturing a medicament for preventing or treating affective disorder, depression or anxiety.~~

17. (Currently Amended) An agent for ~~preventing or~~ treating a disease wherein a CRF receptor is implicated, which comprises ~~the~~ a compound represented by the formula (Ia):



wherein ring A is a 5-membered ring represented by the formula (A'):



wherein X is a carbon and X¹ is -NR⁵- (wherein R⁵ is a C₁₋₄ alkyl);

R^{1a} is (1) an amino substituted by two substituents selected from an optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkyl, an optionally substituted phenyl and an optionally substituted pyridyl, or (2) an optionally substituted cyclic amino;

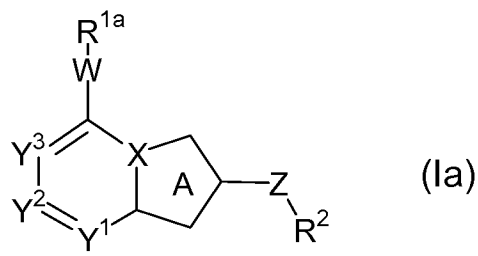
R² is an optionally substituted phenyl or an optionally substituted pyridyl;

Y¹, Y² and Y³ are each a methyne optionally substituted by a halogen;

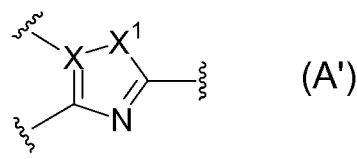
W is a bond; and

Z is -NH-; (Ia) according to claim 13 or a salt thereof.

18. An agent for ~~preventing or~~ treating affective disorder, depression or anxiety which comprises ~~thea~~ compound represented by the formula (Ia):



wherein ring A is a 5-membered ring represented by the formula (A'):



wherein X is a carbon and X¹ is -NR⁵- (wherein R⁵ is a C₁₋₄ alkyl);

R^{1a} is (1) an amino substituted by two substituents selected from an optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkyl, an optionally substituted phenyl and an optionally substituted pyridyl, or (2) an optionally substituted cyclic amino;

R² is an optionally substituted phenyl or an optionally substituted pyridyl;

Y¹, Y² and Y³ are each a methyne optionally substituted by a halogen;

W is a bond; and

Z is -NH-; (Ia) according to claim 13 or a salt thereof.